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Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAR ES 02353 021146Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 (ISO) W
----------049450 021247Z /46
O 021124Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8783
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 2353

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, CG, FR, BE, TZ
SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON RECOVERY EFFORT FOR ZAIRE

REF: STATE 137343

1. WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN HERE AN INTENSE AND SWIFT REZCTION AGAINST THE IDEA OF AN INTER-AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE SUPPORTED BY THE WEST. THIS WAS VERY EVIDENT IN NYERERE'S SUMMONING OF CHARGE ON THIS ISSUE JUNE 1 (DAR ES SALAAM 2339 NOTAL) AND IN COORDINATED PRESS ATTACK SAME DAY AGAINST THE WEST (DAR ES SALAAM 2331). WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT NYERERE LAST NIGHT DECIDED TO SUMMON UK HIGH COMMISSIONER AND FRG AMBASSADOR JOINTLY TO ARUSHA TODAY, PRESUMABLY FOR SAME PURPOSE HE SUMMONED CHARGE YESTERDAY.
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2. IN MEETING WITH CHARGE, NYERERE'S REMARKS WERE DIRECTED AGAINST THE GENERAL IDEA OF A WESTERN-BACKED INTER-AFRICAN FORCE THAT WOULD MEET THE SECURITY CONCERNS OF SOME AFRICAN STATES, BUT HE DID NOT ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF AN AFRICAN PEACE-KEEPING FORCE SPECIFICALLY FOR SHABA. HOWEVER, THE TENOR OF HIS REMARKS ON THE MORE GENERAL INTER-AFRICAN SECURITY QUESTION

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GAVE A CLEAR INDICATION THAT HE WOULD HAVE GREAT SUSPICIONS ABOUT A WESTERN-BACKED FORCE IN SHABA, ESPECIALLY IF FRENCH INVOLVED.

3. IN LATER CONVERSATION WITH TWO SENIOR TANGOV OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN NYERERE MEETING, CHARGE NOTED THAT NYERERE HAD ADDRESSED ONLY THE GENERAL ISSUE AND NOT THE SPECIFIC QUESTION OF SHABA. TANGOV OFFICIALS SAID THEY WERE CERTAIN NYERERE WOULD HAVE SIMILAR CONCERNS ABOUT SHABA FORCE. IT IS OUR ASSESSMENT THAT NYERERE WANTED TO WARN US OFF ALTOGETHER AND WOULD REGARD WESTERN-BACKED MILITARY PRESENCE IN SHABA AS A DANGEROUS FIRST STEP IN COLLABORATING WITH FRANCE IN WHAT HE WOULD CONSIDER THE MILITARY RE-COLONIZATION OF AFRICA.

4. BESIDES COLONIAL AND GREAT POWER ASPECTS, THERE ARE SECONDARY CONSIDERATIONS THAT WOULD AFFECT NYERERE'S REACTION TO IDEA OF INTER-AFRICAN FORCE IN SHABA. TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY --EVEN ZAIRE'S--IS AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION TO NYERERE, BUT IT IS OVERSHADOWED IN THIS CASE BY HIS CONCERN THAT WESTERN INTERVENTION TO PROP UP MOBUTU'S REGIME (WHICH HE SEES AS HOPELESSLY CORRUPT) WOULD BE A GIANT STEP BACKWARD FOR THE AFRICAN REVOLUTION.
WALKER

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